

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02633 181032Z

15  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 /071 W  
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P R 180800Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1593  
INFO USNMR SHAPE  
US MISSION NATO 571  
USCINCEUR  
USCINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN  
USCINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
JUSMG/MAAG  
16TH AF, TORREJON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2633

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, SP  
SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: MILITARY QUID AND F-4E'S

1. APRIL 16 EDITION "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) AND  
APRIL 17 EDITION "ABC" (MONARCHIST) HARRIED ARTICLES OF  
SOME SIGNIFICANCE REGARDING SPAIN AND NATO, BASE  
NEGOTIATIONS, AND QUESTION OF SPANISH PURCHASE OF F-4E'S,  
REPORTED AS FOLLOWS.

2. "INFORMACIONES" ARTICLE BASED ON PYRESA AGENCY DISPATCH  
FROM NEW YORK SIAD INFORMED SOURCES THERE HAD DISCLOSED  
AIR MINISTRY'S DECISION TO FOREGO PURCHASE OF F-4E'S,  
SPECULATING THAT DECISION WOULD BE RELATED TO CURRENT  
NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF 1970 AFC. ARTICLE SPECULATED  
ON VARIOUS POSSIBLE SPANISH MOTIVES:

A. SPAIN WAS LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF  
SURPLUS PHANTOMS AT A BARGAIN PRICE WHEN USAF SUBSTITUTED  
400 OF THEM WITH NEW YF-16.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02633 181032Z

B. SPAIN WAS AWAITING DECISION OF NATO COUNTRIES

WITH REGARD TO CHOICE OF YF-16 OR MIRAGE F-1, WITH THOUGHT THAT UNANIMITY NOT REQUIRED, AS POSSIBLY ENOUGH COUNTRIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BOTH AIRCRAFT (DUTCH AND BELGIANS WOULD PURCHASE F-1, NORWEGIANS AND DANES WOULD PURCHASE YF-16), SO THAT SPAIN COULD OPT FOR EITHER IN LIEU OF F-4.

3. MORNING PRESS APR 17 REPORTED FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY SPANISH AIR MINISTER CUADRA MEDINA, MADE TO NEWS CORRESPONDENTS IN COURSE OF VISIT TO BRUSSELS:

A. CUADRA REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SPAIN HAD NO SPECIAL INTEREST IN NATO MEMBERSHIP, "ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH SPAIN HAS NO COMMITMENT. SPAIN DOES HAVE A ROLE TO CARRY OUT IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION," HE ADDED, CALLING ATTENTION TO INCREASED VALUE OF SPAIN'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN MEDITERRANEAN.

B. CUADRA SAID THAT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. SPAIN WAS FOLLOWING POLICY APPROPRIATE TO ITS INTERESTS, AND RECALLED THAT COOPERATION WITH U.S. HAD SERVED TO PRESENT TIME, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION FOR SPANISH ARMED FORCES. CUADRA MEDINA RECALLED THAT SPAIN HOPED SOON TO ACQUIRE A SQUADRON OF MIRAGE F-1'S, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY USEFUL FOR WHATEVER CONVENTIONAL ROLE."

4. COMMENT: POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT THAT CUADRA REFERRED TO PURCHASE OF MIRAGE F-1'S IN CONTEXT OF REMARKS ABOUT SPANISH-U.S. BASE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF CANCELLATION BY SPANISH OF LETTER OF INTENT TO PURCHASE SQUADRON OF F-4E'S, OSTENSIBLY DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. RECENT DISCUSSION BETWEEN JUSMG/MAAG AND GENERAL ALFARO DIR SERVICES AIR MINISTRY, HAVE CONFIRMED SPANISH DETERMINATION TO AVOID COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO F-4E'S NOW, DESPITE PRICE INCREASES IN NEW AIRCRAFT INHERENT IN FURTHER DELAYS, OR UNLIKELIHOOD (WHICH WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEM) SPANISH WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN USED AIRCRAFT (AND HENCE AT BARGAIN PRICE) FROM USAF INVENTORIES, A COURSE WHICH GENERAL DOLZ HAS APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED.

5. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SPANISH MAY BE CONSIDERING F-4E ACQUISITION AS PART OF OVERALL QUIDPACKAGE THEY WILL  
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PAGE 03 MADRID 02633 181032Z

BE NEGOTIATING FOR IN FUTURE ROUNDS. OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE TO THEM IS THAT PURCHASE PRESUMABLY WOULD BE ON FAVORABLE CREDIT TERMS, WHILE RECENT LETTERS OF OFFER BASED STRICTLY ON CASH SALES.

6. CUADRA'S REMARKS REGARDING NATO WERE PROBABLY OFFERED IN CONTEXT OF REPLY TO QUESTION FROM CORRESPONDENT SPECULATING OVER RECENT NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT SPAIN'S RELATIONS TO NATO,

BEGINNING WITH LUNS REMARKS IN NAPLES (MADRID 1883). BELIEVE  
WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THEY REFLECT STANDARD SPANISH VIEW THAT  
IT WILL NOT ASK NATO MEMBERSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, REFERENCE  
TO SPAIN'S ROLE IN WESTERN DEFENSE WOULD APPEAR TO  
TIE HIS REMARK APPROPRIATELY WITH CURRENT SPANISH  
DESIRES AS PUT FORTH IN THE ONGOING BASE NEGOTIATIONS.  
WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS POINT IN THE  
NEXT FEW DAYS.  
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## Message Attributes

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